

WO 2004/074622 A3



TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

(88) Date of publication of the International search report:

31 March 2005

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/04740

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : E21B 19/16, 17/02, 29/00

US CL : 166/380, 242.1, 242.6, 206, 207; 285/333, 334, 382.1, 53

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 166/380, 242.1, 242.6, 206, 207; 285/333, 334, 53, 382.1, 382.4

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,263,968 B1 (FREEMAN et al) 24 July 2001 (24.07.2001), Fig. 9B, column 2, lines 51-64, column 10, line 4 through column 11, line 15.	14, 16, 25, and 27
---		-----
Y		1-13, 15, 17-24, 26, 28-46, 48, 49, 51-58, 66-85
Y	US 4,854,338 A (GRANTHAM) 08 August 1989 (08.08.1989), Figs. 3-4, column 6, lines 25-31.	1-13, 15, 22-24, 26, 56, 57, 66, 77, and 80
Y	US 5,031,370 A (JEWETT) 16 July 1991 (16.07.1991), Fig. 8 and claim 11.	17-20, 28-31, and 83
Y	US 4,401,325 A (TSUCHIYA et al) 30 August 1983 (30.08.1983), Figs. 2-4, column 2, line 52 through column 3, line 2; column 3, line 34 through column 4, line 13.	21, 32, , 58, 61, 66-73, 75, 76, 78, 79, 81, 82, 84, and 85
Y	US 5,931,511 A (DELANGE et al) 03 August 1999 (03.08.1999), Figs. 1-1A.	33-44
Y	US 4,917,409 A (REEVES) 17 April 1990 (17.04.1990), Figs. 3-6.	53-55, 80, and 83

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T"

later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&"

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 December 2004 (22.12.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

19 JAN 2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

David Bagnell ✓

Telephone No. 703-308-1113